



House of Representatives

General Assembly

File No. 127

February Session, 2018

Substitute House Bill No. 5337

House of Representatives, March 29, 2018

The Committee on Education reported through REP. FLEISCHMANN of the 18th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the substitute bill ought to pass.

AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF VIRTUAL CLASSROOMS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (*Effective from passage*) The Department of Education shall,
2 within available appropriations, conduct a feasibility study on the use
3 and expansion of virtual learning and distance learning. Such
4 feasibility study shall include, but need not be limited to, an
5 examination of (1) existing virtual learning centers and distance
6 learning opportunities, (2) the courses and programs offered by such
7 virtual learning centers or distance learning opportunities, and
8 whether the content of such courses and programs are rigorous and
9 aligned with curriculum guidelines approved by the State Board of
10 Education, (3) how many school districts are implementing virtual
11 learning or distance learning, and (4) school district capabilities to
12 implement virtual learning or distance learning, including any
13 limitations on implementation. Not later than January 1, 2019, the
14 Department of Education shall submit a report on its findings and

15 recommendations to the joint standing committee of the General
16 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to education, in
17 accordance with the provisions of section 11-4a of the general statutes.

| | | |
|---|---------------------|-------------|
| This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections: | | |
| Section 1 | <i>from passage</i> | New section |

ED *Joint Favorable Subst.*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

OFA Fiscal Note

State Impact:

| Agency Affected | Fund-Effect | FY 18- FY 19 \$ |
|------------------|-------------|-----------------|
| Education, Dept. | GF - Cost | Up to 20,000 |

Note: GF=General Fund

Municipal Impact: None

Explanation

The bill results in a cost of up to \$20,000 to the State Department of Education (SDE) associated with conducting a feasibility study on the use and expansion of virtual and distance learning. The costs related to the feasibility study include up to \$15,000 to contract with a consultant as SDE does not have the personnel to conduct this study, and up to \$5,000 associated with supplies and materials to complete the study.

The Out Years

There are no anticipated costs in the out years, as SDE is required to report its findings on the study not later than January 1, 2019.

OLR Bill Analysis

sHB 5337

AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF VIRTUAL CLASSROOMS.

SUMMARY

The Office of Legislative Research does not analyze Special Acts.

COMMITTEE ACTION

Education Committee

Joint Favorable Substitute

Yea 36 Nay 0 (03/14/2018)